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Agenda item 4
Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Election of eight members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from among candidates nominated by Governments and appointment of eight members by the President of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has also received a nomination from the Government of Estonia for election to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues[1] for the following candidate: Helen Kaljuläte. Biographical information on Ms. Kaljuläte is provided in the annex.

[1] See E/2010/9/Add.8 and Add.9 for information on other candidates nominated by Governments.

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Annex

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Eastern European States

Ms. Helen Kaljuläte (Estonia)

Ms. Helen Kaljuläte is currently responsible for United Nations affairs, human rights and gender issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia. Ms. Kaljuläte has worked for the Estonian Foreign Ministry since 2001, including the International Organizations and Security Policy Department and the Press and Information Department of the Foreign Ministry.

In the period 2006-2009, Ms. Kaljuläte was responsible for human rights, including indigenous issues, as well as gender affairs at the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations in New York.

In 2006, Ms. Kaljuläte was a human rights adviser to the European Union Presidency at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, with a specific focus on indigenous issues.

Ms. Kaljuläte was also closely involved in the work of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women during Estonia's Chairmanship of the Committee, 2007-2009, as well as the gender-related discussions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Kaljuläte has represented Estonia in various United Nations meetings, including the Commission of Human Rights (2005), the Human Rights Council (2006-2010), the Economic and Social Council (2006-2009), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2007-2009) and the Commission on the Status of Women (2007-2009).

She also represented Estonia at the presentation of Estonia's regular report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2006.

The current focus of Ms. Kaljuläte's activities is on gender issues with regard to the promotion of human rights, development and peace and security: violence against women, rights of the child, as well as promotion of the situation of the indigenous peoples through Estonia's work on human rights and development.

Estonia continues to be actively and constructively engaged in the promotion of the situation of the indigenous peoples as one of its areas of priority. This focus is reflected in Estonia's activities within the United Nations as well as at the national level.

Estonia attaches great importance and continues to contribute to the protection and promotion of the rights of the indigenous peoples and their continued development through the United Nations system, including through active engagement in the policy deliberations regarding indigenous peoples. Estonia welcomed the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly in September 2007.

Estonia particularly appreciates the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which, as an expression of partnership between indigenous

peoples, Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, has provided valuable expert advice to the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations system. Estonia values the role that the Forum has played in coordinating the activities related to the situation of indigenous peoples within the United Nations, as well as its role in integrating the indigenous perspective in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

In order to facilitate United Nations activities in support of the world's indigenous peoples through different programmes and projects, as well as the engagement of the indigenous peoples in the discussions on issues concerning them, Estonia has for over a decade supported the United Nations funds for indigenous peoples, including the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues relating to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.